The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill.

President.— The next item of the business is the Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill. We have to continue the discussion on the motion for introduction. Any Member wishing to speak on this motion? If there is none, you may have the right of reply, and I shall put the thing to the vote of the House.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I remember no particular point expressed by the Members who opposed the Bill.

President.—Mr. Kochunni Menon said that there is only one industrial concern here, the "Sitaram", and that unnecessary work is forced upon that Mill with regard to the return.

Mr.K. Achyuta Menon.—There is no unnecessary labour. They have to get the same information for their yearly report, and no additional work has to be done by the establishment to supply the information.

President.—What are the objections raised?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—One is with regard to additional work. The other is unhealthy rivalry between concerns.

The main object of the Bill is to get statements with regard to quantities of cotton goods manufactured and cotton yarn spun. That is the thing for the Council to consider. With regard to the disclosing of trade secrets by the company, of course, that is a matter of difference of opinion. I remember to have read the other day an article by one steel manufacturer in America saying that secrecy does not do much good, and publicity is the best thing for trade, and that he has succeeded very well by making public everything concerned in his trade. Of course, secrecy, I understand, is to dupe the public.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Our industry is in an infant stage, so far as we are concerned, and we are in want of funds.

Suppose there is only one Mill here. What is the advantage of publicity?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—What is the disadvantage of publicity? That is what I ask.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Others who are in a better position and who can spend more money can produce a larger quantity, and thereby command our markets also.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—I am afraid there is a great deal of misunderstanding in regard to this matter. In the Cotton Excise Act, there was provision for supplying all these statistics, and when that Act was repealed last year, the provisions with regard to the supply of statistics were embodied in a new Bill corresponding to our present Cotton

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(Statistics) Bill. This had the approval of the Mill-owners, Association in Bombay. It was treated as a non-controversial question in the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly. The British Government and every other civilised Government has statistical bureaus which collect all statistics with regard to industries, agriculture and so on. They have all the paraphernalia for such purposes. The Government of India want similar statistics from the Native States also, and they have, therefore, requested us to legislate and to take power to gather these statistics. There is absolutely nothing new or revolutionary in a thing like that. We are only assisting an all-India scheme. As for trade secrets, the balance-sheet is published every year. We know what the amount realised by the Sitaram Mill is. From that, we can gather, more or less, though not exactly, what the out-turn of the Mill is.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Per month ?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—From the amount that you realise you can see approximately what the out-turn of the Mill is. What the Bill seeks to ensure is that, instead of the approximate quantity, the exact quantity must be made known. With regard to agriculture, we give the out-turn of agriculture every year.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Every year? We have no objection to supply every year. But the Bill wants a return every month.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—That is a matter of detail which we can settle when we come to that point. The general principle is that the necessary statistics must be supplied for an all-India concern, and it is to our own advantage.

President.—The principle of the Bill may be accepted.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—With regard to the detailed provision, whether the return should be monthly, annual, biennial, triennial or quinquennial, it is a matter of indifference to me. As a civilised Government, we must not object to a thing like that.

Mr. V.K. Kochunni Menon.—Is there a similar provision in Mysore and Travancore ?

President.—I think, so far as Travancore is concerned, there is. We are legislating consequent on a communication received from the Agent to the Governor-General, and all Native States will have received it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then, why do they not bring this Bill in their respective Legislative Councils ? Why are we in a hurry to bring this motion now ? The Government Advocate does not know whether it is introduced there. Why should we introduce it here unless it is introduced in Travancore and Mysore ? We are in the habit of following Travancore in

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almost all things. Is it not the duty of the Government to gather all this information, before they introduce this Bill—a Bill which was subject to great controversy last time? We do not know the objects and reasons of this Bill. Simply, certain statements are made. I addressed an enquiry to the learned Advocate who said that everything is printed there.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In Travancore, I know there are many mills, and even there, it is not introduced.

President.—Are they legislating? The same communication must have have been received by them. As Mr. Achyuta Menon pointed out, this is a matter of preparation of statistics that is required for the development of the industry and for an all-India scheme.

Now, we shall take the sense of the Council.

The question that the Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill be read in Council was put to the vote of the House and was carried.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—We have to consider it clause by clause. This was passed in 25 minutes in the Legislative Assembly.

President.—It is a non-controversial matter.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The analogy is not good. Conditions are different. They are dealing with hundreds of mills there.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—May I know whether such a Bill was introduced and passed in Mysore and Travancore?

Mr. K Achyuta Menon.—In Travancore, I think, they have not.

President.—Are any steps being taken there?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I do not know.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Steps are bound to be taken. There is a circular letter from the Government of India.

President.—That was Mr. Salem's argument.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Moreover, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, have voted for it. So, they ought to know.

President.—The Secretary will read the title of the Bill.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The title of the Bill is "The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill".

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I do not propose to move for the appointment of a Select Committee. I request you, under S. O. 32, to suspend the rule of 15 days.

President.—I suspend the rule.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I beg to move that the Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill be taken into consideration.

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Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I second it.

President.—Any one wishing to speak in connection with this motion? If not, I shall put it to votes.

The question of taking into consideration the Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill was put to votes and carried.

President.—I suppose it is now my turn to read the Bill clause by clause.

Let us take the preamble last.

Clause 1, short title and extent; clause 2, definitions.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Standing Order 14 requires that each clause has to be passed.

Clauses 1 and 2 were put to votes and carried.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I beg to propose an amendment to clause 3, sub-clause (1). In that, for "each month" substitute "every half year," and then in the 4th line, "during the preceding month" may also be made "during the preceding half-year" and in sub-clause (3), instead of "month," "half-year" may be substituted.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Sir, I second it.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I have not sent previous notice, and I hope the President will be pleased to allow it.

President.—I allow it.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—If this be passed, I have got an amendment. If the statements are made half-yearly, seven days may not be sufficient. I propose that it may be extended to 15 days at least.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—I beg to second it.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The amendment relating to 15 days can come only after the other amendment has been passed.

The amendment that for the word "month" in clause 3 "half-year" should be substituted was put to votes and lost.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We want a poll.

President.—The Government block stands by the Bill and votes against the amendment. You are against the amendment, Mr. Salem?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, Sir, I am against it.

President.—Mr. Achyuta Menon, are you in favour of the amendment?

Mr. C. Achuyta Menon.—No, Sir, I am neutral.

A poll was taken.

Ayes.

1. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.
2. ,, E. Ikkanda Wariar.
3. ,, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.
4. ,, V. K. Kochunni Menon.
5. ,, K. Krishna Menon.

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6. Mr. M. Krishna Menon.
7. „ C. A. Kunjunni Raja.
8. Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.
9. Mr. K. T. Mathew.
10. „ N. Padmanabha Menon.
11. „ T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
12. „ M. K. Raman.
13. Dr. A. Ravunni Menon.
14. Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.
15. „ K. Sankaran Nambudiri.

Noes.

1. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.
2. „ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.
3. „ K. Govinda Menon.
4. Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.
5. Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.
6. „ K. Krishna Pisharodi.
7. „ C. Matthai
8. „ I. Raman Menon.
9. „ A. B. Salem.
10. „ Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur.
11. „ V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.
12. „ A. K. Vengu Ayyar.
13. Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.

Neutrals.

1. Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.
2. „ I. E. Ambooken.
3. „ O. R. Chummar.
4. „ George Chakyamuri.
5. „ K. P. Karuppan.
6. „ S. S. Koder.

The motion was declared carried by 15 against 13, 6 being neutral.

President.—When Members stand up, I find a different result. Now, I find the amendment is accepted and carried. This is not the first time that mistake is commited but it is the 6th or 7th time. Hereafter, I want to be sure.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Members should be made to stand up.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Then, there will be no necessity for a poll.

President.—The poll is for understanding who all voted for and against a certain amendment. It has to be recorded. The purpose of the poll will be served only by noting down the names. I shall adopt this precaution and ask the Members to stand up, though it may cause some inconvenience to them.

The amendment for substituting the word "fifteen" for "seven" in clause 3 sub-clause (3) was put to votes and carried. Clause 3 as amended was put to votes and carried.

President.—Any amendment with regard to clause 4?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir. In clause 4, sub-clause (1), line 4, I move to omit the words "or without"

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so that the amended form will be "may, at any time, with notice to the owner, etc., etc."

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Sir, I second it.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—In line 1, sub-clause (1), clause 4, it is given "any officer". The officer is not specified. It would be better, if it be "any officer, not below the rank of, etc."

President.—You give the discretion to the Government. The Government is supposed to exercise discretion in regard to the status and position of the officer and not expected to abuse the power. The Government will send a proper officer who is competent to do his work, and who may be trusted upon. It would not be any officer. We have got the Inspector of Factories and Boilers and the District Magistrate who are inspecting the mills.

And *you* don't inspect?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir. That practice has been put a stop to.

President.—But, with regard to the Tata Oil Mills, Ltd., the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has certified that men can be worked in shifts for 8 hours and 12 hours a day.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Not mine. Then it was the practice in vogue. Lately it has been abolished.

President.—So, you have nothing to do with the mills now?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir.

President.—You have any other person to suggest?

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—I do not want to rely upon the Government. The powers of the Government are very large. I will say, the mill-owner or the manager.

President.—But what I want to point out is the Government will appoint a competent officer. So, why not you trust the Government in the matter?

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Alright, Sir.

President.—So, is that all in connection with clause 4?

The amendment for omitting the words "or without" in line 4, clause 4, was put to votes and carried.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The other side was not called upon to vote.

President.—Yes. There are only the official Members and Mr. Salem.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In this matter, I would have sided with the Government.

President.—Even then, there are only 14 against 15.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—And the casting vote makes the number 16.

President.—When votes are unequal, the casting vote does not come. And so, in this case, there are 15 against 14. We get 15 Members for the amendment. Mr. Salem and Mr. Ouseph with the official Members make 14.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—And with you, Sir, it is 15. Then, the number is equal, and then, the President has the casting vote, and that will make the number 16.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I am surprised, Sir. Why should the President vote at all? It should not be the practice of the President to vote like this. He should exercise it only in extreme cases.

Mr A. B. Salem.—This is a Government Bill, and the President is bound to vote.

President.—Anyhow, the amendment will be considered as carried.

Clause 4 as amended was voted for by the House.

The House rose for lunch, it being 2 p. m. It met again at 3 p. m.

Adjournment Motion for Purposes of Debate.

President.—The adjournment motion is not in order by reason of section 11 (a) read with Rule 34 (1) (a). Though the adjournment motion has been so worded as to give apparent prominence to the reticence of the Government in a particular matter, namely, the health of His Highness the Maharaja, the substantial matter intended to be raised by the discussion is the "health of His Highness", which discussion is forbidden by the provisions of the Council law referred to above. The mover of the adjournment motion seeks to make out a distinction between the main issue and the side issue involved therein, but to me it appears to be a distinction without a difference. This motion is, to all intents and purposes, to bring out the topic of His Highness' health under the discussion of the Council, and this I have to rule out in accordance with the provisions of the Council law.

The Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill.

We shall first proceed with the Cotton Industry (Statistics) Bill. The first consideration is about clause 5. Is there any amendment?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—In clause 5, line 3, I propose that, "each month" may be substituted by "half-year".

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I beg to second it.

The motion was put and adopted.

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